

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Selected claims are amended to further clarify the invention and are not made to overcome the cited prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the rejected claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 11, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to rewrite these claims in independent form in the future.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Honda et al. (US 5,748,444). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 12 recite, among other things, a plurality of fastening members fixed to the lower housing through the upper housing. According to one embodiment of the invention, the upper housing is fixed to the lower housing by the plurality of fixing screws that fasten into the lower housing *from the upper housing* (see FIGS. 2-7 and page 20, lines 11-14 of the specification). Additionally, independent claims 1 and 9 recite, among other things, that the upper housing is fastened to the lower housing by the plurality of fastening members without exposing the plurality of fastening members. According to one embodiment of the invention, when the portable computer is seen from any direction, the plurality of fixing screws as the plurality of fastening members cannot be seen from the outer space (see page 20, lines 19-22 of the specification).

By contrast, Honda et al. disclose a fastening member 128 fixed to the upper housing *from the lower housing*, wherein a screw hole 126 is formed in each of the fixing seat portions 125 and the screw holes 126 are opened to the bottom wall (see Honda et al., col. 12, lines 32-35). FIG. 13 clearly illustrates that screw 128 is inserted through the lower housing for fastening to the upper housing. As a result, since fastening member 128 is exposed at the lower housing, the exposed fastening member causes the quality of the appearance of the electronic apparatus to be reduced when the bottom of the electronic apparatus is viewed. As a result, the commercial value of this prior art electronic apparatus is lowered.

Since Honda et al. neither discloses nor suggests the invention claimed in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 or the invention claimed in independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10, 11 or the invention claimed in independent claim 12 and its dependent

claims 13-15, these claims clearly are not anticipated by Honda et al. For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the rejected claims are requested.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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